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any, and the study might have much greater value to medical and pharmacal students.

#### AMATEUR SYSTEMATIC BOTANY.

A FEW days ago there came into the writer's hands a pretty little book, 'Fieldbook of American Wild Flowers,' by F. S. Mathews (Putnam's Sons), which is so suggestive and helpful as to appear worthy of some notice here. Its title is misleading, since the book is by no means 'American' in its scope, its range being confined to what we are calling 'northeast North America,' that is, practically the region covered by Gray's 'Manual.' This should be corrected in subsequent editions, or we may have anxious amateurs in Georgia, Texas, Wyoming, Montana and Arizona trying to fit western plants to eastern names and descriptions. It is not right that the title should be so much larger than the work itself. It is a fieldbook for a restricted portion of the country, and this should be clearly stated.

The book includes species of seventy-two families of flowering plants, the word 'flowering' being interpreted popularly, so that grasses, sedges, willows, oaks, elms, etc., are omitted as not having showy flowers. The arrangement of the families is that of Engler and Prantl. The species are described quite non-technically, and this work is so well done that the book should enable any one to identify every plant included in its pages. The many excellent plates, many of which are colored, will greatly help the beginner. The book is worthy of many editions, and no doubt will stimulate many a person to know more about the common wild flowers.

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#### RECENT ZOOPALEONTOLOGY.

##### THE COPE PAMPEAN COLLECTION.

THIS collection, representing the Pleistocene fauna of South America, includes three series of specimens, brought together by Ameghino, Larroque and Brachet, and sent by the Argentine Republic to the Paris Exposition of 1878. Professor Cope was so

captivated by this collection that he purchased it outright, and brought it to this country. For more than twenty years it remained packed away out of sight in the cellar of Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. The American Museum of Natural History has acquired the collection from the executor of the Cope estate through funds subscribed by six of its trustees, Messrs. H. O. Havemeyer, William E. Dodge, D. Willis James, Adrian Iselin, Henry F. Osborn and the late James M. Constable.

It includes a very full representation of the Pleistocene fauna of South America, among which are a considerable number of type and figured specimens, all, with one exception, described or figured by Florentino Ameghino. The gem of the collection, now being mounted for immediate exhibition, is the skeleton of a very large specimen of the saber-toothed tiger belonging to the genus *Smilodon*; it lacks only the fore feet, which have been supplied from casts taken from the skeleton in the Museum of Buenos Aires.

The following specimens are especially noteworthy. Among the smaller Carnivora the type skeleton of *Conepatus mercedensis*, finely preserved, consisting of skull, jaws, limbs and about half the vertebræ. Among the rodents is *Lagostomus*, including various skulls and skeletons, which may be combined for a complete mount. The Litopterna are represented by the jaws and upper teeth of *Macrauchenia*. Of the Toxodonts, there are a skull and jaws, and separate limb and foot bones. The Proboscidea are represented by the fore and hind limbs and tusk of the Pampean mastodon. Among the Edentates are the following: Armadillos—*Eutatus brevis*, type skeleton in fair condition; *Dasypus*, skull, jaws, and a third of the carapace and skeleton; Glyptodonts—*Panochthus frenzelianus*, type skeleton lacking the vertebræ and teeth, but including the carapace casque; the skull, jaws, casque and carapace of two other specimens of *Panochthus*; skull, jaws and limbs of other specimens; *Dadacurus*, carapace; *Hoplophorus*, a fairly complete skeleton, except some vertebræ, with carapace, casque and tail-shield included. Among the ground-sloths there is a nearly

complete skeleton of *Lestodon armatus*, which can be mounted for exhibition, a large animal approaching the megatherium in size; *Lestodon myloides* is represented by a nearly complete skeleton which can be mounted, also by two skeletons of young animals; there is also a nearly complete skeleton of *Myloodon robustus*, which can be mounted by filling out the vertebral column with vertebræ of other individuals; this species is also represented by several incomplete skeletons and skulls; *Scelidothorium* is represented by two fine skulls, with a third of a skeleton, also by two inferior skulls with the greater part of the skeleton, but hardly sufficient to mount.

Work upon the preparation of this collection has already begun, and it will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible. It will be arranged partly zoologically and partly faunistically, in connection with the Patagonian collection made by Mr. Barnum Brown three years ago, which is now almost completely worked out for exhibition. The Patagonian types are largely ancestral to those of the Pampean, and while the latter contain an admixture of the northern forms, the faunal arrangement of these successive series so strikingly characteristic of South America will be of very great interest. H. F. O.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

PROFESSOR F. W. CLARKE, of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been invited to deliver the Wilde lecture before the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society next year on the occasion of the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the propounding of the atomic theory at Manchester by Dalton. Professor Clarke will at the same time be given the Wilde gold medal of the society.

DR. W. L. BRYAN, president of Indiana University, has been elected president of the American Psychological Association.

THE King of Denmark has conferred an order of knighthood on Lord Lister.

A MARBLE bust of Sir William Muir, until recently principal of the University of Edinburgh, was unveiled on December 19. Sir William Turner received the bust on behalf of the university.

PROFESSOR H. V. HILPRECHT, of the University of Pennsylvania, lectured on January 16 before the Anthropological Society at Berlin on his excavations at Nippur. He expects to return to America shortly, and will then leave on a further expedition.

DR. ALFRED EMERSON, formerly professor of classical archeology at Cornell, has returned from a five years' absence in Europe and Asia Minor. He has recently been collecting antiquities for the Hearst collection at the University of California.

AT the recent meeting of the Iowa Park and Forestry Association at Des Moines, Professor Macbride, of the State University of Iowa, gave the president's address. At a joint meeting of the Park Association and the Iowa Horticultural Society, Professor Shimek read a paper on the Iowa oaks. Professor Macbride was reelected president of the association.

MR. JOHN HYDE, statistician of the Department of Agriculture, has been awarded damages to the amount of \$2,500 by the New Orleans courts against a firm of cotton brokers, which in December, 1901, caused a cable dispatch to be sent to Liverpool, England, to the effect that the United States Government cotton report was incorrect and unreliable, and intimating that the report was in the interest of speculators.

THE *Alumni Register* of the University of Pennsylvania announces that Dr. Simon Flexner, professor of pathology, has received a grant from the Carnegie Institution, and that his assistant, Dr. Noguchi, has been appointed the first research assistant. It is reported in the daily papers that the Lick Observatory has received from the institution a grant of \$4,000.

THE Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society has awarded its Dalton medal to Professor Osborne Reynolds, F.R.S.

PROFESSOR SCHWENDENER, of Berlin, has been elected president of the German Botanical Society and Professor von Wettstein, of Vienna, vice-president.

THE Academy of Sciences of Göttingen has elected as corresponding members Professors Bezold (physics) and von Richthofen (geog-